

1 **AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

2 **Claims pending**

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- At time of the Action: Claims 28, 40, 49-50.
- After this Response: Claims 28, 40, 49-52.

5 **Canceled or Withdrawn claims:**

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- Previously: Claims 1-27, 29-39, and 41-48.
- In this Response: None.

8 **Amended claims:** Claims 28, 40, and 49.

9 **New claims:** Claim 51-52.

11 This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims
12 in the application:

15 1. – 27. (Cancelled).

17 28. (Currently amended) A system for managing a directory of published
18 printable objects and removing nonfunctional objects, the directory maintained
19 on a computer network, and a directory service for providing access to
20 resources represented by corresponding objects in the directory of published
21 printable objects, the system comprising:

23 a pruning module including a module for testing if a specified object,
24 from the directory of published printable objects, is accessible, a module for

1 determining if the specified object is deleteable, wherein a list of orphaned
2 objects is tested in accordance with a specifiable policy that monitors the
3 specified object to determine if the specified object is orphaned, and a module
4 for testing if software hosting the specified object is capable of republishing
5 the specified object, wherein the specifiable policy comprises: [[;]]

6 initializing a print spooler directory services component;

7 identifying a machine acting as a domain controller for the
8 specified object;

9 determining a site on which the domain controller is running;

10 searching a domain associated with the domain controller for
11 the specified object;

12 checking a print server site for the specified object;

13 verifying that the print server exists, in an instance where the
14 print server exists, comparing a printer identification with an
15 identification of the specified object;

16 referencing a printer object pruning policy in an instance
17 where a match between the printer identification and the specified
18 object identification is not established;

19 a domain controller hosting the pruning module and the directory
20 of published objects the domain controller configured to receive user
21 input specifying and assigning thread priority for the pruning module

such that the pruning module operates during times of relatively low utilization of the computer network; and
a thread for executing the pruning module.

29. – 39. (Cancelled).

40. (Currently amended) A method for managing a directory of published printable objects and removing nonfunctional objects, the directory maintained on a computer network, and providing a directory service for accessing resources represented by corresponding objects in the directory of published printable objects, the method comprising:

pruning the published printable objects by testing if a specified object, from the directory of published objects, is accessible, determining if the specified object is deleteable, wherein a list of orphaned objects is tested in accordance with a specifiable policy, wherein the specifiable policy monitors the specified object at a thread priority assigned by a user, and testing if software hosting the specified object is capable of republishing the specified object[[;]].

assigning said pruning a thread priority sufficient to allow said pruning to be accomplished during times of relatively low computer network utilization.

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2 41. – 48. (Cancelled).

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4 49. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

5 obtaining a list of published ~~printable~~ objects of a computer network,
6 wherein individual published objects are intended to contain references and
7 attributes of a logical device;

8
9 pruning objects from the list based upon testing with a specified policy
10 whether an individual object is orphaned from the logical device, determining
11 if the individual object is deleteable, and ascertaining if software hosting the
12 individual object is capable of republishing the individual object; and,

13
14 assigning said testing, said determining, and said ascertaining thread
15 priorities specified by a user sufficient to allow said pruning to be
16 accomplished during times of relatively low computer network utilization.

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18 50. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 49,
19 wherein said assigning enables said testing to be completed before commencing
20 said determining, and said determining to be completed before commencing said
21 ascertaining.

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24 51. (New) A computer-implemented method comprising:
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1 identifying at least one printer object;

2 evaluating whether the at least one printer object should be pruned by

3 performing acts comprising:

4 initializing a print spooler directory services component;

5 creating a pruning thread;

6 identifying a machine acting as a domain controller;

7 determining a site on which the domain controller is running;

8 searching a domain associated with the domain controller for

9 the printer object;

10 checking a print server site for the printer object;

11 verifying that the print server exists, in an instance where the

12 print server exists, comparing a printer identification with an

13 identification of the printer object; and,

14 referencing a printer object pruning policy in an instance

15 where a match between the printer identification and the printer

16 object identification is not established.

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20 52. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein said testing comprises:

21 attempting to locate a logical device corresponding to the object;

22 attempting to locate a server upon which the logical device exists; and,

1 in an instance where either act of attempting is unsuccessful, then
2 accessing a pruning policy relating to the object.

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